

2003 Hunting Conditions at Medicine Lake NWR August 22, 2003

The Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge and the Northeast Montana Wetland Management District open to upland game bird hunting on Sept. 1. The youth waterfowl season is September 27 - 28, and waterfowl hunting opens on October 4.** Ring-necked pheasant season opens on Oct. 11 for both residents and non-residents. See Refuge Hunting Map (<http://medicinelake.fws.gov/hunting/>) for areas open to hunting. Non-toxic shot is required for all bird hunting on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands, including the Medicine Lake Refuge and all Waterfowl Production Areas. All bird hunting follows State of Montana seasons and regulations. (<http://fwp.state.mt.us/>) No additional special permits or licenses are required.

Refuge Hunting Areas #1 and #3 open for upland game bird and deer hunting beginning November 15 and will remain open for the remainder of the appropriate hunting season. See Refuge Hunting Map and Regulations (<http://medicinelake.fws.gov/hunting/>) for further information.

Several mild winters coupled with a good breeding season this year allowed for a good carry over for all upland bird populations. Sharp-tailed grouse numbers should be up again from last year, and pheasant numbers will be much improved as well. Partridge numbers, although still low, are on the increase.

Waterfowl: Although we had a fairly dry and mild winter, a late snow coupled with heavy spring rains filled wetland basins in the area. As a result of good wetland conditions, duck production in northeast Montana was excellent this year. With 36 million breeding waterfowl, up 9% from 2002, hunters can expect an excellent waterfowl hunting season in 2003. For more waterfowl information check out the following sites: (<http://www.fws.gov> & <http://www.ducks.org>)

Sandhill Crane and Tundra Swan permits for the Central Flyway of Montana are available at no charge at the Refuge headquarters on a first-come/first-served basis. These permits are also available at Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge (<http://bowdoin.fws.gov/>), Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks regional offices in Glasgow, Billings, Miles City, and the state office in Helena(<http://fwp.state.mt.us/>).

*** Waterfowl dates are still tentative at the time of this listing. Please check with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (<http://fwp.state.mt.us/>) for exact dates and regulations.*

Camping in the area - (*No camping is allowed on the Refuge*)

Medicine Lake

*Fee-electrical, showers, bathrooms
contact Roger Krumweide 406-789-2524 or 789-2546

*Fee-water, electrical, sewer hookup
contact Wayne Stringer 406-789-2244

Froid

*Fee-water electricity, sewer hookup
contact Jan Peters 406-766-9955

*Free- in the city park, has restrooms and electricity

Culbertson

*Free in the city park, restrooms and electricity
information phone 406-787-5271

Plentywood

*Free in the city park below the dam, restrooms and electricity
more info from city hall 406-765-1700

Also, <http://www.plentywood.com> may have additional information..